

**Subject:** FW: Citizen complaint re. odor from MarkWest facility - **Non-Responsive**

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“Non-ResponsiveNon-ResponsiveNon-ResponsiveNon-ResponsiveNon-Responsive

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**Subject:** Citizen complaint re. odor from MarkWest facility - Non-Responsive Non-Responsive Non-Responsive

Rochelle Marceillars suggested that I send a citizen complaint to you re. a MarkWest facility in Ohio. The citizen. Non-Responsive

Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ), to ask if the Corpus Christi facility had reported recent issues with flaring. Staff at TCEQ said there hadn't been any recent complaints, but they'd call the citizen and get more details. When they did, they learned Ms. [Non-Responsive] lives in Barnesville, OH, and her concerns involved the MarkWest Humphreys Compressor Station in Barnesville, OH. Details of her complaint are provided below. Please handle as you deem appropriate.

[Non-ResponsiveNon-ResponsiveNon-ResponsiveNon-Responsive]

[Non-Responsive]

The location of the emission events is at the MarkWest Humphreys CS, 347000 Johnson Ridge Road, Barnesville, Ohio 43713.

The complainant lives across the road from the company. The complainant stated her health has been affected by the release of chemicals from this facility since the facility had opened approximately a year and six months ago. The filters for the release of the chemicals were installed later after she had complained to the company several times about her illness from the fumes. When the company releases the emissions daily, it sends a vapor cloud, which the odor is so strong it chokes you. The complainant's husband has found her unconscious from the fumes. She has no feeling in her finger tips and her weight went from 175 to 130 in three months. The complainant's neighbors have either been bought off or have moved because of the plant. The complainant stated the attorney for MarkWest in Denver, Colorado has stopped communicating with her totally. They have placed canisters on her property to monitor the emission releases allegedly affecting her property. The canister reports are always inconclusive. The complainant has been to several doctors to which she just returned from a doctor visit in West Virginia and the doctor doesn't know where to begin because the canister reports are all inconclusive. The complainant keeps an odor log as well and reports it to the company regularly. Meanwhile her health is declining rapidly since this company began processing.

The complainant has talked to the Ohio EPA several times and each employee she talks with is no longer working there.

Thank you,

*Toni Allen*

Environmental Protection Specialist  
Air Enforcement Branch  
Compliance Assurance & Enforcement Division  
US EPA Region 6 (6EN-AT)  
1445 Ross Ave, Suite 1200  
Dallas, TX 75202-2733  
Phone: 214.665.7271  
Fax: 214.665.7446  
Email: [allen.toni@epa.gov](mailto:allen.toni@epa.gov)

---

**From:** Georgia Carroll-Warren [<mailto:Georgia.Carroll-Warren@tceq.texas.gov>]

**Sent:** Wednesday, June 29, 2016 12:33 PM

**To:** Allen, Toni <[Allen.Toni@epa.gov](mailto:Allen.Toni@epa.gov)>

**Cc:** Mike Riff <[mike.riff@tceq.texas.gov](mailto:mike.riff@tceq.texas.gov)>; Susan Clewis <[susan.clewis@tceq.texas.gov](mailto:susan.clewis@tceq.texas.gov)>; Sonny Lopez <[sonny.lopez@tceq.texas.gov](mailto:sonny.lopez@tceq.texas.gov)>; Kelly Ruble <[kelly.ruble@tceq.texas.gov](mailto:kelly.ruble@tceq.texas.gov)>

**Subject:** RE: Citizen complaint re. odor from MarkWest Javelina plant, Corpus Christi---TCEQ CALLED COMPLAINANT IN OHIO

Good Afternoon Ms. Allen:

I called the complainant, **Non-Responsive**, today, Wednesday, June 29, 2016 at 10:30 a.m.

**Non-ResponsiveNon-ResponsiveNon-ResponsiveNon-ResponsiveNon-Responsive**

**Non-Responsive**

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The complainant lives across the road from the company.

The complainant stated her health has been affected by the release of chemicals from this facility since the facility had opened approximately a year and six months ago. The filters for the release of the chemicals were installed later after she had complained to the company several times about her illness from the fumes. When the company releases the emissions daily, it sends a vapor cloud, which the odor is so strong it chokes you. The complainant's husband has found her unconscious from the fumes. She has no feeling in her finger tips and her weight went from 175 to 130 in three months. The complainant's neighbors have either been bought off or have moved because of the plant. The complainant stated the attorney for MarkWest in Denver, Colorado has stopped communicating with her totally. They have placed canisters on her property to monitor the emission releases allegedly affecting her property. The canister reports are always inconclusive. The complainant has been to several doctors to which she just returned from a doctor visit in West Virginia and the doctor doesn't know where to begin because the canister reports are all inconclusive. The complainant keeps an odor log as well and reports it to the company regularly. Meanwhile her health is declining rapidly since this company began processing.

The complainant has talked to the EPA in Ohio several times and each employee she talks with is no longer working there.

I told the complainant I would update you on our conversation and ask you to please return her call as soon as possible.

Thank you.

### Georgia Carroll-Warren

Administrative Assistant

TCEQ Corpus Christi Region 14 Office

6300 Ocean Drive, Unit 5839, Suite 1200

Corpus Christi, Texas 78412-5839

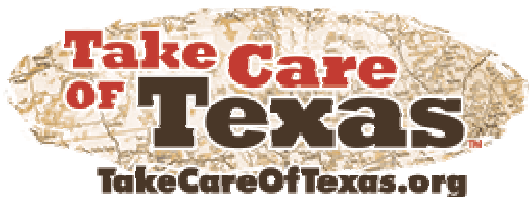
Phone: (361) 825-3363

Facsimile: (361) 825-3101

[georgia.carroll-warren@tceq.texas.gov](mailto:georgia.carroll-warren@tceq.texas.gov)



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**From:** Allen, Toni [<mailto:Allen.Toni@epa.gov>]

**Sent:** Wednesday, June 29, 2016 9:01 AM

**To:** Kelly Ruble <[kelly.ruble@tceq.texas.gov](mailto:kelly.ruble@tceq.texas.gov)>

**Cc:** Georgia Carroll-Warren <[Georgia.Carroll-Warren@tceq.texas.gov](mailto:Georgia.Carroll-Warren@tceq.texas.gov)>; Mike Riff <[mike.riff@tceq.texas.gov](mailto:mike.riff@tceq.texas.gov)>; Susan Clewis <[susan.clewis@tceq.texas.gov](mailto:susan.clewis@tceq.texas.gov)>; Sonny Lopez <[sonny.lopez@tceq.texas.gov](mailto:sonny.lopez@tceq.texas.gov)>  
**Subject:** RE: Citizen complaint re. odor from MarkWest Javelina plant, Corpus Christi

Kelly, Thanks for a quick response. I don't know if the odor allegation(s) are on-going. I'm not sure when the complaint was received. **Non-Responsive** called the number for the EPA attorney on the 2013 case (no longer here & someone else has number), and left a message. It took a couple of days for the complaint to come to me. I like to do some research before I call a citizen so I planned to call her today, but wanted to touch base with your office first.

Thanks,  
Toni

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**From:** Kelly Ruble [<mailto:kelly.ruble@tceq.texas.gov>]

**Sent:** Wednesday, June 29, 2016 8:54 AM

**To:** Allen, Toni <[Allen.Toni@epa.gov](mailto:Allen.Toni@epa.gov)>

**Cc:** Georgia Carroll-Warren <[Georgia.Carroll-Warren@tceq.texas.gov](mailto:Georgia.Carroll-Warren@tceq.texas.gov)>; Mike Riff <[mike.riff@tceq.texas.gov](mailto:mike.riff@tceq.texas.gov)>; Susan Clewis <[susan.clewis@tceq.texas.gov](mailto:susan.clewis@tceq.texas.gov)>; Sonny Lopez <[sonny.lopez@tceq.texas.gov](mailto:sonny.lopez@tceq.texas.gov)>

**Subject:** Re: Citizen complaint re. odor from MarkWest Javelina plant, Corpus Christi

Toni

I'm currently in Austin this week. I will have one of my investigators research that complaint and give you a call back.

Do you know if the current allegations (odors) are on going at this time? I can have our complaints coordinator (Georgia) contact her as well.

I have included Georgia on this email as well as my air section point of contact (Mike Riff) while i am out of the office.

Mike - can you review the referenced incident and contact Toni today.

Kelly Ruble  
Sent from my iPhone

On Jun 29, 2016, at 8:39 AM, Allen, Toni <[Allen.Toni@epa.gov](mailto:Allen.Toni@epa.gov)> wrote:

<image001.gif>

Kelly,

EPA Region 6 received a call from a citizen regarding odors allegedly from the MarkWest Javelina facility in Corpus Christi. The citizen, **Non-Responsive** has knowledge of EPA's 2013 Consent Agreement and Final Order issued on 8/29/13 assessing a penalty of \$97,500 for issues which included the facility not meeting the minimum heating value for the gas stream sent to the flare and exceeding the allowable visible emission limits at the flare. **Non-Responsive** tried to reach the EPA attorney for the 2013 case, but her concerns were referred to me. I haven't called **Non-Responsive** back yet. I wanted to touch base with you first

regarding Incident 215675 on 6/15/15 regarding smoke and odor from MarkWest. I understand the Incident has been assigned to an investigator for investigation.

If you or an air investigator could call me today, I would appreciate it.

Thank you,

*Toni Allen*

Environmental Protection Specialist  
Air Enforcement Branch  
Compliance Assurance & Enforcement Division  
US EPA Region 6 (6EN-AT)  
1445 Ross Ave, Suite 1200  
Dallas, TX 75202-2733  
Phone: 214.665.7271  
Fax: 214.665.7446  
Email: [allen.toni@epa.gov](mailto:allen.toni@epa.gov)

## Topinka, Natalie

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**From:** Loukeris, Constantinos  
**Sent:** Monday, July 11, 2016 2:06 PM  
**To:** Non-Responsive  
**Cc:** Bellairs, Katharina; Topinka, Natalie  
**Subject:** Odor Complaints

Hi Non-Responsive

Thank you for taking the time last week to speak to us about the odor issues that have been going on in your area regarding the MarkWest Humphrey's compressor station. In addition, I've documented the odor complaint that you phoned in today per our conversation this morning. Katy Bellairs, who is an EPA inspector out of our Cleveland, Ohio office, will be following up with a visit to the area. She will reach out to you, so that she can plan accordingly.

At your earliest convenience, if you are able to send us any pictures, canister results, and any correspondence you've had with MarkWest employees and attorneys, that would be greatly appreciated.

Please do continue to reach out to us. As I mentioned on the phone, I will be out of the country starting this Thursday, but you can email Natalie or Katy, who are both on this email. Natalie's work phone number is (312) 886-3853.

Thank you,

Constantinos Loukeris, Environmental Engineer  
U.S. EPA Region 5  
Air Enforcement and Compliance Assurance (MI/WI)  
77 West Jackson Blvd., Mailcode: AE-17J  
Chicago, IL 60604  
Phone: (312) 353-6198  
Fax: (312) 408-2235

## Topinka, Natalie

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**From:** Leatra Harper <wewantcleanwater@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, October 25, 2016 10:17 AM  
**To:** Non-Responsive; James Yskamp; Megan Hunter; Topinka, Natalie  
**Subject:** Re: attorney

So sorry it has come to this. I am copying in my attorneys at Fair Shake. I am also copying in a person from the USEPA that needs to be contacted to followup. Please call her.

Dear Natalie - here is more documentation that the OEPA and ODNR are not regulating adequately here in Ohio. We need your help. There have been repeated complaints. People are getting sick. Here is the FLIR camera footage of the Humphrey compressor station emissions:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QFZQ0ASS6os>

I will have Non-Responsive give you a call.

Non-Responsive - Natalie's phone number is 312-886-3853.

Best,

Non-Responsive  
Non-Responsive

On Tue, Oct 25, 2016 at 10:55 AM, Non-Responsive Non-Responsive wrote:

Hi Non-Responsive

There have been some developments here...with my own personal fracking drama and Non-Responsive Non-Responsive  
In August, I began going to my Slope Creek house everyday, as all my flowers were blooming and I needed to get things in order down there before it got cold.... I would stay all day, and then leave at night because I would have burning eyes, and sinus issues...I ended up with a rash, that has not gone away. I have also had other symptoms....So, I went to an Iridologist and naturopathic doctor, that I had seen previously and whom I trust. He said that my liver is not functioning properly.  
I have researched the chemicals that were found in my air, and liver problems is listed for all of them.

Non-Responsive called me a week or so ago. She was asking for my help and wondering if we could still get someone to test her air. The MarkWest attorney had called her and said they had received the results of her air monitoring, that happened for 3 months....and that there was nothing in her air from the station that is making her sick..He refused to give her the test results, as did the company whom had they equipment at her house. She also gave them pages of notes and documentation of symptoms, smells etc. She did not make a copy, just sent them off to the company. She is asking me to help her. She finally doesn't trust MarkWest....  
I am writing to you because I want the name of an attorney who might be willing to negotiate with MarkWest for us. Can you recommend someone? I think I can find family members to help pay for the attorney fees..I am calling OEPA today to see if anything has been done on the station since the issued violations in May.  
I hope you are well.

Praying,

Non-Responsive  
Non-Responsive

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"Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has." **Margaret Mead**



## Topinka, Natalie

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**From:** Leatra Harper <[wewantcleanwater@gmail.com](mailto:wewantcleanwater@gmail.com)>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, November 29, 2016 8:53 PM  
**To:** Topinka, Natalie  
**Cc:** Nadia Steinzor  
**Subject:** Fwd: Humphreys compressor station emissions  
**Attachments:** HumphreysCompressorFLIR EarthworksAffidavit11-29-16 .doc

Dear Natalie,

Per our last conversation, I followed up and asked for documentation and interpretation of the FLIR footage that showed emissions from the Humphrey compressor station from Earthworks. They have graciously and expeditiously furnished an explanation, which we are forwarding for your info. I hope we can arrange a conference call with Nadia to further explain what is evident in the FLIR footage so that it is not misconstrued as "heat" when it is, in fact, polluting emissions.

Also, have you requested the blowdown and pigging information from the Crum compressor station? I would like to compare that with our documentation of the flaring.

Also, what would be the proper channels for a public records request for the results of the monitoring done by the USEPA at the Humphrey location? I understand that the USEPA did do some air quality monitoring in SE Ohio, and would like to obtain those results.

Thanks so much for keeping in touch and working on these important issues with us.

Best,  
Lea Harper

----- Forwarded message -----

**From:** Nadia Steinzor <[nsteinzor@earthworkSACTION.org](mailto:nsteinzor@earthworkSACTION.org)>  
**Date:** Tue, Nov 29, 2016 at 9:00 PM  
**Subject:** Humphreys compressor station emissions  
**To:** Leatra Harper <[wewantcleanwater@gmail.com](mailto:wewantcleanwater@gmail.com)>

Hi Lea,

Attached is an affidavit from Earthworks' certified FLIR operators about their filming of the Humphreys Compressor facility and how to interpret the emissions.

In addition, Earthworks has put together a longer video with additional footage from both July 2015 (which is when the footage in the initial video on YouTube was filmed) and November 2015. This video contains footage in different modes, which shows the emissions plumes differently. In high sensitivity mode, the plume can be seen traveling across the fenceline into the surrounding area. In auto mode, the emissions can clearly be seen coming from the compressors, two heaters/boilers, and storage tanks.

The video is at: <https://youtu.be/hbvDolZ4pOI>

The heat from the stacks and the emissions plumes are clearly distinguishable. It is puzzling to us and very unfortunate to hear assertions that the emissions are "just heat," especially since local residents have reported odors and health symptoms (which we also experienced during our first visit).

I hope this new video will be informative for your contacts at EPA. Please let me know if you need anything else. We'd be happy to talk more, including to anyone at EPA.

Regards,  
Nadia

=== EARTHWORKS: Protecting Communities and the Environment

Nadia Steinzor  
Eastern Program Coordinator, Oil & Gas Accountability Project  
[202-887-1872, ext. 109](tel:202-887-1872)  
[nsteinzor@earthworksaction.org](mailto:nsteinzor@earthworksaction.org)  
skype: nadia.steinzor-ewa  
twitter: @earthworks

More gas and oil, more pollution. Read about the very real health risks in our reports [\*Reckless Endangerment\*](#) and [\*Gas Patch Roulette\*](#).

**The shale boom leaves a lot more behind than gas and oil. Read about the growing problem of polluting waste and its lax management in our report [\*Wasting Away\*](#).**

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## Topinka, Natalie

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**From:** Topinka, Natalie  
**Sent:** Friday, December 02, 2016 7:54 AM  
**To:** 'Leatra Harper'  
**Cc:** Nadia Steinzor  
**Subject:** RE: Humphreys compressor station emissions  
**Attachments:** Humphreys NOV 6.8.2016.pdf

Lea,

Here is the link to submitting a FOIA request: <https://www.epa.gov/foia>

Go to the "make a new request" link in the green box at the right of the page. You can continue making the request as a guest, or create an account.

In the Processing Fees section, indicate that you are willing to pay \$25. There should be no actual charge for this request because it is well below the threshold of 100 pages/2 hours of employee time responding, but the Clean Air Act requires the requestor to commit to this minimum fee up front before the request can be processed, should the response exceed those page/time thresholds.

In the description section, after you describe your request, you can put my name as a point of contact. This will help it get directed to me quickly for fulfillment. I also wanted to let you know that my July 2016 inspection of the Humphreys facility included an inspection report, FLIR video, and a photo or two, all of which are releasable under FOIA as well, so feel free to include those items in your request.

Regarding the FLIR footage, thank you for sharing this new video and affidavit with me. To clarify the point I was trying to make with you on the phone about heat and FLIR videos – I was stating that when a very hot source such as an engine or combustor is left in the camera frame, it effectively "washes out" the full view of the emissions plume because the camera adjusts its grayscale to the hottest object in the frame, and everything else appears nearly uniformly dark (or light, depending on the mode used). VOCs are indeed emitted from compressor engines and other combustion sources – this is confirmed when such sources, including the Humphreys station, conduct stack testing.

Since FLIR cameras do not quantify VOC emissions or identify specific components of those emissions, it is especially valuable for EPA to receive reports of specific health effects experienced and the time, date, and location of the observer, such as those details included in Earthworks' affidavit.

Regarding emissions from the condensate and produced water storage vessels, OEPA's Notice of Violation from June 2016 (which I know you have already but which I am attaching here for quick reference) cites MarkWest for this issue and makes reference to corrective actions taken to remedy the violation and prevent VOC emissions from the pressure relief valves on the storage vessels.

For the Crum Compressor station, at this time, EPA has not issued an information request to this facility.

Thank you indeed for continuing to keep in touch about this.

Natalie

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Natalie M. Topinka  
Environmental Scientist  
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 5  
Air Enforcement and Compliance Assurance Branch  
77 West Jackson Boulevard (AE-17J)

Chicago, IL 60604  
ph: (312) 886-3853  
fax: (312) 692-2410

Protecting the environment is everyone's responsibility. Help EPA fight pollution by reporting possible harmful environmental activity. To do so, visit EPA's website at <http://www.epa.gov/compliance/complaints/index.html>

**From:** Leatra Harper [mailto:wewantcleanwater@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, November 29, 2016 8:53 PM  
**To:** Topinka, Natalie <topinka.natalie@epa.gov>  
**Cc:** Nadia Steinzor <nsteinzor@earthworksaction.org>  
**Subject:** Fwd: Humphreys compressor station emissions

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Nadia

=== EARTHWORKS: Protecting Communities and the Environment

Nadia Steinzor  
Eastern Program Coordinator, Oil & Gas Accountability Project  
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skype: nadia.steinzor-ewa  
twitter: @earthworks

More gas and oil, more pollution. Read about the very real health risks in our reports [Reckless Endangerment](#) and [Gas Patch Roulette](#).

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